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# **Strengthening Voluntary Sector Capacity Through Technology**

**Report of the Joint Table on  
Information Management/Information Technology  
of the Voluntary Sector Initiative**

**September 2002**

**Canada**

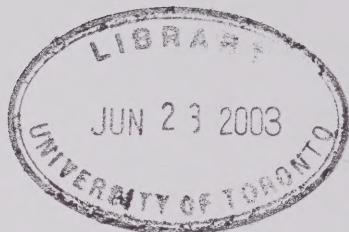
**Voluntary Sector**



# **Strengthening Voluntary Sector Capacity Through Technology**

**Report of the Joint Table on  
Information Management/Information Technology  
of the Voluntary Sector Initiative**

**September 2002**



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# A Message from the Members of the IM/IT Joint Table

We, the members of the Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) Joint Table, are pleased to submit our report to the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI), and to the Minister of Industry responsible for the implementation of this initiative.

When the voluntary sector and the Government of Canada launched the VSI in the summer of 2000, one of their main goals was to serve Canadians better by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector. They agreed that helping voluntary organizations make more efficient and effective use of technology to achieve their missions was a good way to contribute to this goal. Our task as members of the IM/IT Joint Table was to recommend how to do it. This report outlines our recommended strategy.

Our approach was to find out what voluntary organizations needed most to improve their ability to achieve their missions, and then develop a strategy for addressing those needs through effective use of information management and information technology.

We commissioned surveys of the "current reality," as well as needs and best practices. We reviewed the literature and the results of cross-Canada VSI consultations with volunteers and voluntary organizations, collaborated with other VSI joint tables, consulted experts in Canada and other countries, and took advantage of the Joint Table's collective experience and expertise. We also talked to many knowledgeable people about technology and the voluntary sector to test our ideas as we developed them.

We were impressed by the challenge of developing a strategy capable of addressing the priority needs of a sector whose organizations are so diverse. Our strategy had to be helpful for organizations throughout the sector and the country, but it could not be "one-size-fits-all."

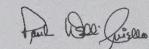
We were equally impressed by the foundation for responding to these challenges. This foundation includes the dedication of voluntary organizations to achieving their missions; the creativity of many voluntary organizations and networks across Canada already using the technology, existing infrastructure and programs in innovative ways; the interest of the Government of Canada, foundations and private sector partners in collaborating to strengthen the sector's technological capacity; and the growing recognition throughout Canada that voluntary organizations are essential to our collective well-being.

We feel privileged to have had the opportunity to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector. We value the ideas and collaboration of the many volunteers, voluntary organizations, and private sector and government partners who helped to shape the strategy we recommend, and thank them for their contribution.

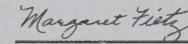
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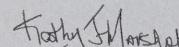
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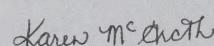
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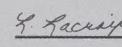
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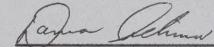
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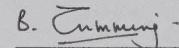
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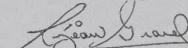
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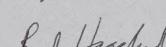
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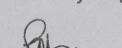
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# Executive Summary

A key goal of the Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI), launched in June 2000, is to strengthen the capacity of the voluntary sector. The VSI recognizes that information management and information technology can make a major contribution to the capacity of voluntary organizations to achieve their missions and to the sector's capacity to play its role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society alongside the private and public sectors.

Recognizing that the voluntary sector is behind the private and public sectors in making effective use of information management/information technology (IM/IT), the VSI established the IM/IT Joint Table to develop recommendations on how to increase the capacity of voluntary organizations and the sector as a whole to make effective use of IM/IT.

The IM/IT Joint Table commissioned surveys, reviewed the literature, consulted experts, reviewed the results of cross-Canada VSI consultations, and took advantage of the experience and expertise of its members to develop an accurate picture of the "current reality" regarding the sector's use of IM/IT and related needs.

The Joint Table identified six main challenges facing voluntary organizations and the sector in making more effective use of IM/IT:

- diversity of the voluntary sector
- limited familiarity of board members, staff and volunteers with IM/IT
- barriers to acquiring IM/IT
- challenge in finding funding
- limited means for organizations to communicate and network
- sustainability of efforts to make effective use of IM/IT.

The Joint Table recommends a strategy with five components to respond to these challenges:

1. Increase the funding available to voluntary organizations for investing in technology by establishing a dialogue with funders of the sector in order to change their funding policies and practices to include technology investments.
2. Help voluntary organizations make more efficient and effective use of technology by linking existing community-based networks together, providing a central access point to the networks and providing access to discounted pricing for IT investments through a virtual technology store.
3. Strengthen the capacity of voluntary organizations to communicate and network by developing a portal.
4. Increase the cost-effectiveness of grant-seeking and grant-giving processes by developing a Web-based interactive funding service.
5. Increase the awareness of voluntary organizations of the benefits of information management and information technology for the achievement of their mission.

Implementation of the strategy will be managed during the transition to full ownership by the voluntary sector by the IM/IT Secretariat of Industry Canada.

# I. Introduction

2

Information management and information technology (IM/IT)<sup>1</sup> have been transforming organizations in the private, public and voluntary sectors, particularly in the last decade or so. For many organizations, the impact of the technology has been far-reaching, transforming their operations, communications and structures, and even affecting their missions. Although the transformation process may be challenging, most organizations find the technology essential for achieving their missions.

The consensus of reports and knowledgeable observers is that the voluntary sector<sup>2</sup> has been behind the private and public sectors in making effective use of IM/IT.<sup>3</sup> It is a matter of concern. Voluntary organizations engage us in the life of our communities, bring us together, provide many services (including most of our social services) and give voice to shared concerns. They are essential to our collective well-being. More effective use of technology could make the contribution of voluntary organizations and the sector as a whole even more valuable.

One of the main goals of the Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI), launched in the summer of 2000, is to strengthen the capacity of the voluntary sector. The VSI recognizes IM/IT as a key contributor to "capacity," along with human and financial resources, skills, knowledge and experience.

The present report recommends a strategy for helping voluntary organizations and the voluntary sector as a whole strengthen their capacity to use IM/IT efficiently and effectively to achieve their mission.

More specifically, the strategy is designed to help voluntary organizations use technology to develop more cost-effective ways for carrying out essential activities such as:

- raising and donating money
- recruiting and supporting volunteers
- managing staff and board business
- delivering services
- advocating improvements in legislation, public policies and programs
- keeping abreast of new developments
- communicating inside and outside the organization
- networking with other organizations.

For the voluntary sector as a whole, the strategy is designed to support the development of a stronger sense of the sector's role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society alongside the private and public sectors, and a greater capacity to play this role. The strategy takes account of the Accord<sup>4</sup> signed in December 2001 by the voluntary sector and the Government of Canada to enhance their relationship and strengthen their ability to serve Canadians.

The IM/IT Joint Table is one of six joint tables established under the VSI. The mandate of the IM/IT Joint Table is to *develop and implement initiatives to help strengthen voluntary organizations with the knowledge and technological capacity they need to achieve their specific mission and mandate*. The full mandate of the Joint Table and its program and operating principles are available on the VSI website ([http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint\\_tables/im\\_it/terms\\_of\\_reference.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint_tables/im_it/terms_of_reference.cfm)).

The strategy is designed to be implemented before the conclusion of the VSI, projected for the spring of 2005. Conceived as a sustainable strategy that can respond to concrete, immediate challenges of voluntary organizations, as well as to the longer term concerns of the sector as a whole, its benefits should become progressively apparent during the implementation period and over the long term.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix II for definitions

<sup>2</sup> The concept of the voluntary sector is the one used by the VSI (<http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/faqs.cfm>)

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, *Building on Strength: Improving Governance and Accountability in Canada's Voluntary Sector. Final Report. "Broadbent Report."* Panel on Accountability and Governance in the Voluntary Sector. (1999) p. 14 (<http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/reports.cfm>)

<sup>4</sup> *An Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector.* (December 2001) ([http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint%5Ftables/accord/the\\_accord\\_doc.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint%5Ftables/accord/the_accord_doc.cfm))

# II. Approach

## ***Identify guiding principles for developing recommendations***

The IM/IT Joint Table attached a high priority to establishing principles and processes to guide its work. The program principles listed below constitute the guiding principles adopted by the Joint Table to help it develop practical recommendations for addressing the priority needs of the voluntary organizations and the sector as a whole.

The Joint Table's program principles, along with a brief commentary (in *italics*), are:

- a) Work in partnership with other sectors (e.g. private sector); share the responsibility.
  - *recognizes that partners can make an important contribution to formulating and implementing the strategy, that it should build on existing structures, networks and programs, and that responsibilities and benefits should be shared.*
- b) Do not create any solution that will put agencies at risk. All solutions should balance risk and benefit to organizations.
  - *recognizes the need to avoid solutions that are like “an offer you can’t refuse” and that may lead organizations to overextend themselves financially or otherwise.*
- c) Put organization and management ahead of technology.
  - *recognizes that technology should serve — not determine — the needs of voluntary organizations.*
- d) Program should not be about hardware.
  - *recognizes the success of the federal VolNet program in providing hardware to many voluntary organizations, and the need for a broad strategy to strengthen technological capacity.*
- e) Begin with the mandate and mission of voluntary sector organizations.
  - *recognizes that mandate and mission should drive technological needs.*
- f) The solutions/recommendations must create the greatest impact upon the sector, keeping in mind the specific needs of a variety of communities of interest.
  - *recognizes that the strategy should aim to be relevant to all voluntary organizations and the sector as a whole, while focussing scarce resources on priority needs such as those typical of small and medium-sized organizations.*
- g) All IM/IT products must meet the common look and feel of accessibility guidelines.
  - *recognizes the fundamental importance of accessibility considerations.*
- h) The program must address the recommendations and guidelines established in the Working Together document.<sup>5</sup>
  - *recognizes that the recommendations and guidelines of background documents, such as Working Together, need to be taken into account in any strategy.*

<sup>5</sup> *Working Together: A Government of Canada/Voluntary Sector Joint Initiative: Report of the Joint Tables*. Voluntary Sector Task Force, Privy Council Office and Government of Canada. (August 1999) (<http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/reports.cfm>)

## Assess the current reality to provide a solid basis for recommendations

The Joint Table focussed on developing as clear a picture as possible of the “current reality” as the basis for developing its recommendations. In addition to drawing on relevant literature, the work and consultations of other VSI joint tables, the views of experts, and the experience and expertise of its own members, the Joint Table commissioned two surveys.

The first survey, *Information Management/Information Technology — Environmental Scan*, prepared by PRA Inc., was an environmental scan and literature review of information management/information technology. The survey report, issued on March 31, 2001, identified general trends, opportunities and gaps in information technology for voluntary organizations.<sup>6</sup>

The second survey report, *Technology Needs of the Canadian Voluntary Sector*, prepared by RealWorld Systems and issued on January 29, 2002, identified the needs of the voluntary sector primarily through interviews with the staff and executives of voluntary organizations.<sup>7</sup>

The findings of both surveys are consistent with many other assessments of the current reality and needs of voluntary organizations.<sup>8</sup> These assessments are reflected in the results of consultations on the Accord and National Volunteerism Initiative (which became the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI)), the views of experts solicited by the Joint Table, including members of other joint tables and the VSI Joint Coordinating Committee, and the views and experience of IM/IT Joint Table members themselves.

An important part of the current reality is the fact that governments, voluntary organizations and the private sector have been working to develop policies, programs, partnerships, infrastructure, networks and initiatives that can support the voluntary sector’s efforts to strengthen its technological capacity. This represents a great deal of investment in terms of funding, hardware, software, connectivity and ingenuity that can strengthen the technological capacity of the voluntary sector.

At the federal level, a well-known example is the VolNet program, which fulfilled its mandate at the end of March 2002 to offer Internet connectivity, including computer equipment, new information technologies, network support and Internet skills development, to voluntary organizations. Other examples include Industry Canada’s Community Access Program and Smart Communities program, and the Community Learning Networks under Human Resources Development Canada’s (HRDC’s) Office of Learning Technologies.<sup>9</sup> Some provincial governments have also made major investments in programming that strengthen the technological capacity of voluntary organizations, and these investments have resulted in some interesting initiatives.<sup>10</sup>

For some years now, the federal and provincial governments and many municipalities have been undertaking major online initiatives designed to facilitate the development of effective “electronic relationships” with organizations, including voluntary organizations, as well as individuals throughout Canada. The more sophisticated these initiatives become, the greater their value to voluntary organizations that have integrated IM/IT effectively into their plans and operations.

Across Canada, there are numerous community-based networks,<sup>11</sup> many of which have been highly creative in developing the electronic infrastructure and expertise needed by local organizations, including voluntary organizations, to make efficient and effective use of the technology. These networks often rely on funding, facilities and programming from a variety of governmental and non-governmental sources to develop both the electronic infrastructure and related training and technical support services needed by local voluntary and public sector organizations to achieve their missions.

One of the strengths of the community-based networks and other community-based initiatives is that they provide the basis for the kind of sustainable face-to-face contacts with knowledgeable people concerned with practical local issues that most voluntary organizations value.

<sup>6</sup> See *Information Management/Information Technology — Environmental Scan*, PRA Inc. (March 2001) ([http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint\\_tables/im\\_it/reports.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint_tables/im_it/reports.cfm))

<sup>7</sup> See *Technology Needs of the Canadian Voluntary Sector*, RealWorld Systems (January 2002) ([http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint\\_tables/im\\_it/reports.cfm](http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/joint_tables/im_it/reports.cfm))

<sup>8</sup> See, for example, *From Access to Applications: How the Voluntary Sector is Using the Internet*. Commons Group. (November 2001) (<http://www.volunteeronline.ca>)

<sup>9</sup> See Community Access Program (<http://www.connect.gc.ca/en/240-e.htm>); Smart Communities (<http://www.connect.gc.ca/en/300-e.htm>); Community Learning Networks ([http://olt-bta.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ourprogram/index\\_e.html](http://olt-bta.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ourprogram/index_e.html))

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, Ontario’s *Making IT Work for Volunteers* (<http://www.volunteeronline.ca>)

<sup>11</sup> See, for example, County of Oxford Integrated Network (COIN) (<http://www.county.oxford.on.ca/coin>)

# III. Challenges

Most of the surveys and assessments of the “current reality” mentioned above identify issues that may pose challenges to strengthening the technological capacity of the voluntary sector. The following are leading examples of these challenges.

## ***Diversity of the voluntary sector***

The great diversity of the voluntary sector poses a challenge to any strategy about technology aimed at having a significant impact across the sector. For instance, the vast differences between large urban-based organizations, such as universities, hospitals, national umbrella organizations and major foundations, on the one hand, and the tens of thousands of small voluntary organizations, including those in rural and remote areas, on the other hand, strongly affect their capacity to make effective use of technology.

The large organizations typically have the resources, expert technical staff and access to communications infrastructure needed to make extensive use of IM/IT. The small organizations, by contrast, typically have meagre resources and very limited access to technical expertise. Organizations in rural and remote areas generally lack communications infrastructure, such as high-speed Internet or, in some cases, even basic Internet service. This does not necessarily mean that all large organizations have adequate resources or make efficient and effective use of technology, nor that the opposite is true for small organizations. However, the cards are generally stacked against the smaller organizations when it comes to making cost-effective use of technology.

The diversity of voluntary organizations extends to many other dimensions beyond those mentioned above, including their goals, their approach to managing their affairs, the activities in which they are engaged, the types of services they provide, their “clientele,” the mix of volunteers and paid staff, and

their language of work. The diversity of organizations poses a particular challenge to the leadership of the voluntary sector, especially its capacity to communicate within and outside the sector.

**A key challenge** is to help develop in all voluntary organizations — regardless of size, location or other characteristics — the technological capacity suited to their diverse missions. This challenge includes helping to reduce the technological gap (digital divide) between voluntary organizations, and strengthening the capacity of the sector to play its role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society.

## ***Limited familiarity of board members, staff and volunteers with IM/IT***

Several surveys, including the PRA survey mentioned on page 4 and the consensus of expert opinion, indicate a general lack of awareness of IM/IT by staff and management at all levels, including senior management and board members. Without direct experience with the technology, management and staff often have an inadequate understanding of its potential value and the resources and effort needed to use it efficiently and effectively.

In addition, many organizations that have chosen to acquire the technology do not possess adequate knowledge and skills to plan for its introduction/expansion and long-term sustainability, and to provide for related staff/management training and technical support.

Most Canadian voluntary organizations have Internet connections and use e-mail routinely.<sup>12</sup> Some have their own websites. Relatively few, however, have made IM/IT an integral part of their operations to the point where they use the technology strategically in fulfilling their missions.

<sup>12</sup> Note: Some small voluntary organizations rely on computers and related technology owned by their volunteers. Some do not consider the technology relevant to their missions and the way they operate. See *Survey of Voluntary Organizations*. EKOS Research Associates Inc. (March 2001) (<http://www.volnet.org/english/studiesreportspage.htm>)

Predictably, larger voluntary organizations make much greater, more sophisticated use of the technology than many of the small and medium-sized organizations.

The table below, based on a report<sup>13</sup> on technology in the U.S. voluntary sector, reflects some of the challenges in adopting technology by focussing on attitudes toward technology. The majority of voluntary organizations surveyed in that report fall into categories 1 and 2. Given that Canada and the U.S. have embraced technology to roughly the same extent, one can infer that Canadian voluntary organizations fall into the same categories as their American counterparts.

Many more private sector and governmental organizations have moved closer toward categories 3 and 4 than those in the voluntary sector. One implication is that, if the voluntary sector is to play its role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society alongside the private and public sectors, and be an effective partner with them, it will need to move closer toward categories 3 and 4.

**A key challenge** is to increase the familiarity of board members, executives, staff and volunteers with IM/IT.

## Barriers to acquiring IM/IT

One of the barriers to acquiring technology often mentioned by voluntary organizations is the restriction applied by some government departments and foundations to using the funding they provide for acquiring technology.

**A key challenge** is to reduce this major barrier by persuading funders that it is in their own interest, as well as that of voluntary organizations, to provide funding for the acquisition of technology. The challenge includes providing support for affordable acquisition of the technology.

## Challenge in finding funding

Virtually any organization can legitimately claim that it finds time and money too scarce to fully achieve its mission, but for most voluntary organizations this scarcity poses a particular challenge. Most voluntary organizations report spending a substantial amount of time on the application and reporting processes associated with raising money rather than actually doing the work they need to do to fulfil their mission.

1	2	3	4
Technology is overhead	Technology is overhead	Technology is necessary	Technology is a strategic resource
Upgrade only when it hurts too much not to	Upgrade as a last resort	Have and use modern software and e-mail	Have and use latest software and applications
Fear technology	Blend new and old technology; may be networked	Capable of using technology strategically	Use it to deliver services, fund-raising and communication
Resist adopting technology	Adopt technology at a slow pace	Willing and able to make technological changes	Adopt and adapt technology to meet their needs at a fast pace

<sup>13</sup> Circuit Rider Report 1999 (to obtain a copy, visit <http://www.technologyworks.org/contact.htm>)

Many organizations recognize that raising money is an ongoing strategic activity. It includes meeting real needs in the community and ensuring that potential supporters understand and appreciate the work being done and the need for adequate resources. A frequently reported frustration arises, however, in connection with the application and reporting processes required by funders, particularly those outside the community who do not have the opportunity to get a first-hand impression of the organization applying for money. Application and reporting requirements are typically extensive, unclear and different from one funder to another, including funding organizations *within* governments.

**A key challenge** is to make funding application and reporting processes simpler, harmonized, and, generally, more time efficient and cost-effective.

### ***Limited means for organizations to communicate and network***

Communication and networking are key elements in capacity building as demonstrated by the public and private sectors. The voluntary sector needs to improve its access to the communication and networking tools now being used by the other sectors.

The VSI consultations confirmed the value of facilitating communications and networking among voluntary organizations. Many participants remarked on how useful it was to have the opportunity to get together with volunteers and staff from diverse organizations in their region. The voluntary sector's work to date on the VSI and the work of the Voluntary Sector Roundtable, which led to the VSI, required extensive communications throughout the sector. The VSI website has demonstrated the potential benefit of technology that can help the voluntary sector strengthen its role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society through efficient and effective communications.

**A key challenge** is to develop a portal for the voluntary sector that can — among other things — help voluntary organizations get the information and services they need, communicate and network, and help strengthen the sector's capacity to play its role as one of the three pillars of Canadian society.

### ***Sustainability of efforts to make effective use of IM/IT***

The integration of IM/IT in most organizations is a process that needs to be sustained over the long term. It is a process that often raises serious questions about the substantial investments required and the risks that they might not pay off.

Integrating technology involves much more than acquiring some computers, Internet connections and software. It involves planning the introduction or expansion of the technology to support an organization's mission, and this usually calls not only for changes in the budget, but often for changes in structures and operations as well. It involves deciding such matters as the specific technology to acquire, the networks to connect with, the training that staff, volunteers, board members and partners need to use the technology effectively, and the technical support needed over the long term.

The specific needs of individual organizations will vary with the broad diversity of the characteristics touched on above. It is clear, however, that addressing only one need, such as acquiring hardware, does not go far in integrating technology effectively. It is also clear that the cost of providing even a single basic computer to most small and medium-sized voluntary organizations alone would consume all of the VSI's \$94.6 million five-year budget, let alone the IM/IT Joint Table's \$10 million five-year budget.

**A key challenge** is to develop a strategy that will ensure leaders in the voluntary sector appreciate the benefits of IM/IT, remove the obstacles to acquiring it, and provide the tools to integrate it into the plans and operations of voluntary sector organizations on a sustainable basis.

# IV. Recommendations: A Technology Strategy for the Voluntary Sector

Reflecting on the challenges outlined above and on the reports, surveys and assessments from which they were derived, the Joint Table considered the kinds of responses that would be of greatest use to voluntary organizations throughout the sector, and of special value to those that need help most.

The recommended response to the above challenges is a strategy that has five components designed to support one another.

## Recommendation 1:

---

**Increase the funding available to voluntary organizations for investing in technology by establishing a dialogue with funders of the sector in order to change their funding policies and practices to include technology investments.**

The approach is to change current policies and funding practices of governments and foundations that preclude, complicate or undervalue the importance of providing funding to voluntary organizations for technology such as hardware, software, Internet connections, upgrades and training.

Discussions with foundations and government agencies that fund voluntary organizations — funders — have been encouraging. Many of them recognize that providing funding for investment in technology makes sense and that it strengthens the capacity of voluntary organizations to achieve their missions — missions that funders are interested in supporting.

Some foundations and government agencies have been working toward the recommended changes in funding practices and, in some cases, have already made them. The action needed to make further progress on this component of the strategy has four elements:

- develop a business case that demonstrates the value to funders of investing in the technological capacity of voluntary organizations
- develop a business case that voluntary organizations can use to support their applications for funding for investments in technology
- enlist the support of governmental and foundation partners who favour changing funding practices in using the business case to persuade the rest
- disseminate the business case to voluntary organizations for their direct use with funders.

The change in funding practices would increase the funds available to voluntary organizations for investment in IM/IT (see the list of essential activities, page 2). While the total amount of funding available would not be directly affected by the recommended change in funding practices, investing a greater share in technology would lead to more effective use of *all* funding. This would increase the overall capacity of voluntary organizations to deliver services and otherwise achieve their missions.

## Recommendation 2:

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**Help voluntary organizations make more efficient and effective use of technology by linking existing community-based networks together, providing a central access point to the networks and providing access to discounted pricing for IT investments through a virtual technology store.**

The approach is to help voluntary organizations plan the introduction or expansion of the technology they need, acquire the technology, integrate it effectively into their operations and sustain it — at an affordable cost.

The key activities associated with effective use of the technology need to be well coordinated. These activities include:

- planning (including budgeting) for the introduction and maintenance of new technology
- acquiring and upgrading technology
- training of management, staff and boards
- technical support.

Implementation of this element of the strategy would build on community-based IM/IT networks across Canada. These networks, as mentioned above, rely substantially on existing “infrastructure” that governments, voluntary organizations and the private sector have been putting in place for some time.

The objective of this element of the strategy would be pursued through three complementary avenues:

- link together up to 50 community-based IM/IT networks, leading to sustainable, networked regional capacity for ongoing technology planning, integration, training and technical support

- provide a central access point for voluntary organizations
- develop a “virtual technology store” accessible through the portal and offering voluntary organizations advantageous procurement arrangements for hardware, software and training, maintenance, support, etc.

The community-based networks can provide one of the most effective ways to introduce and support information and communication technology because they operate through practical face-to-face approaches at the local level. A key advantage is that costly infrastructure and expertise, as well as experience, can be shared by many different kinds of organizations that serve the community.

Through a competitive selection process, existing community-based networks could receive funding to help them expand their capacity to respond to requests from local voluntary organizations for assistance in planning the acquisition/expansion of technology, training and technical assistance. A modest hourly fee would be charged to voluntary organizations for the services supplied.

The acquisition of hardware, software, Internet connections, etc. would be facilitated through an expansion of the types of advantageous procurement arrangements that currently exist with major suppliers such as Apple, IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq. To do this, a “virtual technology store,” similar to some of the offerings of *In Kind Canada*<sup>14</sup> and the U.S. *TechSoup*,<sup>15</sup> but designed to meet Canadian needs, would be a key service on the portal through which voluntary organizations could acquire the technology, training and technical services they need at low cost.

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<sup>14</sup> See *In Kind Canada* (<http://www.inkindcanada.ca/en/index.html>)

<sup>15</sup> See *TechSoup* (<http://www.techsoup.org>)

## Recommendation 3:

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### **Strengthen the capacity of voluntary organizations to communicate and network by developing a portal.**

The approach is to develop a portal for the voluntary sector. The portal would be a strategic IM/IT resource for the voluntary sector. Directly or through linkages with voluntary organizations, governments, foundations and private companies, the portal would provide Web-based services such as the “virtual technology store” and funding exchange (see below) needed by voluntary organizations. The portal can also be viewed as an interactive electronic magazine to facilitate networking and advocacy, and generally strengthen the sector’s capacity to play its role as a one of the three pillars of Canadian society alongside the private and public sectors. The design of the portal is based on experience with Canadian and foreign portals for the voluntary sector.

Development and operating costs could be minimized through partnership and leverage arrangements with government, such as sharing a common platform. These arrangements, if they are more economical and advantageous for the sector, would not compromise the independence with which the voluntary sector could operate the portal. The portal would leverage and partner with government while maintaining independence through a voluntary sector management team. Sustainability could also be pursued through subscription fees for specialized services such as the funding exchange and virtual technology store. (Appendix III provides a conceptual model of the portal.)

## Recommendation 4:

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### **Increase the cost-effectiveness of grant-seeking and grant-giving processes by developing a Web-based interactive funding service.**

The approach is to develop a Web-based interactive service designed specifically for the sector and its funders. The service would respond to a major priority of voluntary organizations to significantly increase the cost-effectiveness of the processes associated with searching, applying and accounting for funding. The service would be designed to generate similar benefits for governmental, foundation and private sector partners that provide funding to voluntary organizations. The service could be sustained by subscription fees from voluntary organizations and funders.

Using common technical standards, government, foundation and private sector funders would participate by providing simplified, harmonized, online application and reporting procedures. Voluntary organizations would participate both by providing standard information about themselves and by using

the Web service for applying and accounting for funding. The changes in funding practices under Recommendation 1 would contribute to the effectiveness of the service.

Key benefits for voluntary organizations would include reducing the resources they devote to application and reporting processes. The result would be that more organizations would have the resources and inclination to invest in the technology they need not only to raise funds, but also to fulfill other aspects of their missions. This would help strengthen the overall technological capacity of the voluntary sector.

Key benefits for governmental, foundation and private sector funders would correspond to those of voluntary organizations, i.e., fewer resources tied up in administration and paperwork, more funds available for distribution, better matching of funding and suitable organizations/goals, open marketplace and greater technological efficiency.

## Recommendation 5:

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### **Increase the awareness of voluntary organizations of the benefits of information management and information technology for the achievement of their mission.**

The approach is to mount a campaign targeting voluntary sector boards and managers to raise awareness of the benefits of IM/IT and to provide information on the tools available to help organizations adopt and use the technology effectively.

The campaign would include:

- distributing information widely across the voluntary sector
- sharing best practices
- putting in place a sharing process for organizations making effective use of the technology that are prepared to act as role models for others.

## V. Implementation

The IM/IT Secretariat of Industry Canada, as the staff team of the government department that sponsored the IM/IT Joint Table, will supervise

the implementation of the Table's recommendations by organizations that have qualified themselves through a competitive process.

# VI. Outcomes

The recommendations outlined above are designed to generate the following outcomes:

- Boards of voluntary organizations understand the need for IM/IT and are prepared to invest resources.
- IM/IT becomes part of the normal business planning process of voluntary organizations.
- Funders are more open to supporting IM/IT expenditures.
- Voluntary organizations realize that other organizations overcome similar challenges through IM/IT.
- Voluntary organizations have access to expert advice, appropriate hardware and software, training and technical support at reasonable rates.
- Voluntary organizations are able to reduce the time they spend looking for sources of funding and filling out application forms.
- Voluntary organizations have a place of their own where they can quickly find information, keep up to date and share experiences.
- Voluntary organizations feel that they belong to a family of organizations with similar interests and facing the same challenges.

## VII. Conclusion

The five recommendations of the IM/IT Joint Table reflect an integrated and coherent strategy to strengthen the technological capacity of the voluntary sector. In developing its recommendations, the Table was conscious of ongoing sustainability issues and therefore believes that the recommended strategy addresses those criteria. As such, where feasible, the strategy will build on or enhance existing processes and projects in the sector.

The IM/IT Joint Table also believes that the strategy will go a long way toward achieving the Table's mandate of increasing the capacity of voluntary sector organizations to achieve their specific missions and mandates. The Table recommends that Industry

Canada ensure that services and products developed as a result of the Table's recommendations are owned and sustained by the voluntary sector once they are fully functional and the work is completed or when the IM/IT Secretariat closes in March 2005, whichever comes first. It should be noted that various collaborative mechanisms may be in place by that time to foster the ongoing work within the sector.

The members of the Joint Table have expressed a desire to continue to be involved during the implementation phase by providing advice and guidance on an as-needed basis in order to ensure there is continuity and understanding of the underlying rationale and logic behind the strategy.

# Appendix I: Summary of Recommendations

1. Increase the funding available to voluntary organizations for investing in technology by establishing a dialogue with funders of the sector in order to change their funding policies and practices to include technology investments.
2. Help voluntary organizations make more efficient and effective use of technology by linking existing community-based networks together, providing a central access point to the networks and providing access to discounted pricing for IT investments through a virtual technology store.
3. Strengthen the capacity of voluntary organizations to communicate and network by developing a portal.
4. Increase the cost-effectiveness of grant-seeking and grant-giving processes by developing a Web-based interactive funding service.
5. Increase the awareness of voluntary organizations of the benefits of information management and information technology for the achievement of their mission.

# Appendix II: Definitions

**Communication technologies** are used to communicate inside and outside the organization (mail, telephone, fax, voice mail, e-mail, teleconferencing, video conferencing).

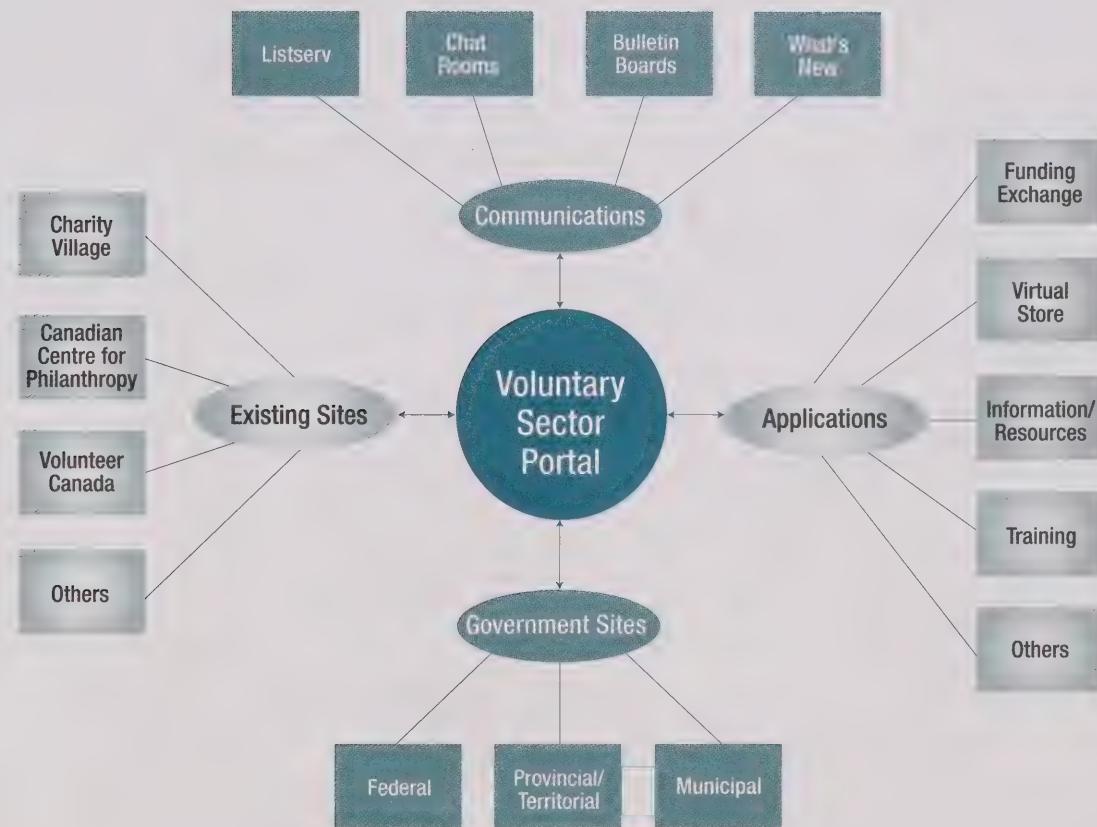
**Information management (IM)** is the ability to share and communicate information, using technology, to improve the organization's capacity in planning and management (including personnel, finance, marketing and systems).

**Information technology (IT)** is the use of any sort of electronic tools to help manage, store, manipulate, transmit or receive information (e.g. e-mail, Internet, website, online resource centres, online discussion groups).

**Technological capacity** is the development, acquisition and productive use of technological tools (both information and communications management) and related content in achieving a mission or mandate.

**Technological tools**, for the purpose of this report, include not only Web- and Internet-based solutions, but also the full range of office software and hardware common to modern organizations.

# Appendix III: Conceptual Model of a Portal



# Appendix IV: IM/IT Joint Table Members<sup>16</sup>

## **Voluntary Sector Representatives**

Don McCreesh (Co-Chair)

Volunteer

YMCA Canada

Paul Dell'Aniello

Director

Seagram Chair of Management  
of Non-Profit Organizations

Université du Québec à Montréal

Margaret Fietz

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Family Service Canada

Ian Kershaw

Consultant

Focus IT Solutions Inc.

Philip King

VP e-Business

United Way of Greater Toronto

Kathy Marshall

National Coordinator

Disabled Women's Network Canada

Karen McGrath

Executive Director

Health and Community Services

St. John's Region

Newfoundland and Labrador

Gary Birch (ex officio)

Chair

Advisory Committee on Assistive Devices

Marilyn Box (ex officio)

Secretariat Officer

Voluntary Sector Initiative

Josephine Sutton (ex officio)

Director

Womenspace

## **Government Representatives**

Lisanne Lacroix (Co-Chair)

Corporate Secretary

Industry Canada

Donna Achimov

Director General

Public Access Programs  
Communication Canada

Bob Cumming

Manager

Departmental Coordination

Rural Secretariat

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Réjean Gravel

Director General

Systems and Informatics Directorate

Corporate Services

Environment Canada

Rodney Haglund

Director

Voluntary Sector Initiative

Charities Directorate

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Susan Margles

Executive Director

Canadian Health Network

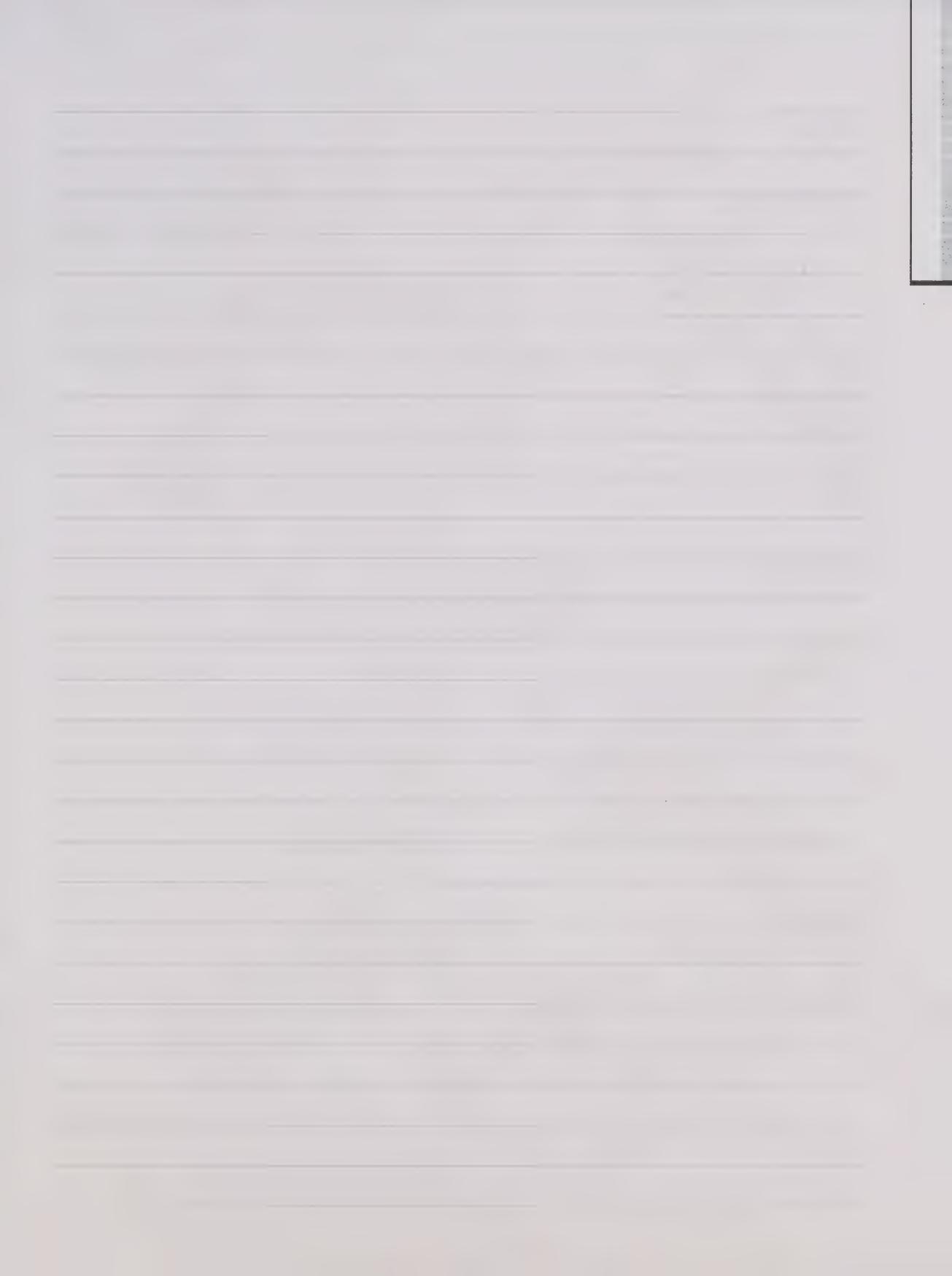
Health Canada

Nancy Wildgoose (ex officio)

Voluntary Sector Task Force

Privy Council Office

<sup>16</sup> The positions with which Joint Table members are identified are those they occupied during preparation of this report. Some members have since moved to new positions.





## Annexe IV Membres de la Table conjointe GI-TI<sup>16</sup>

## Représentants du secteur bénévole et communautaire

## Représents du secteur bénévole

Don McCreesh (copresident)

YMCAs Canada

Paul Dell'Aniello

Université du Québec à Montréal

Chair Seagram en gestion des organismes

Université du Québec à Montréal

## Service à la famille — Canada

lan Kershaw

## United Way of Greater Toronto

## Vice-président du commerce électronique

Kathy Marshall

Karen McGrath

Santé et Services Co

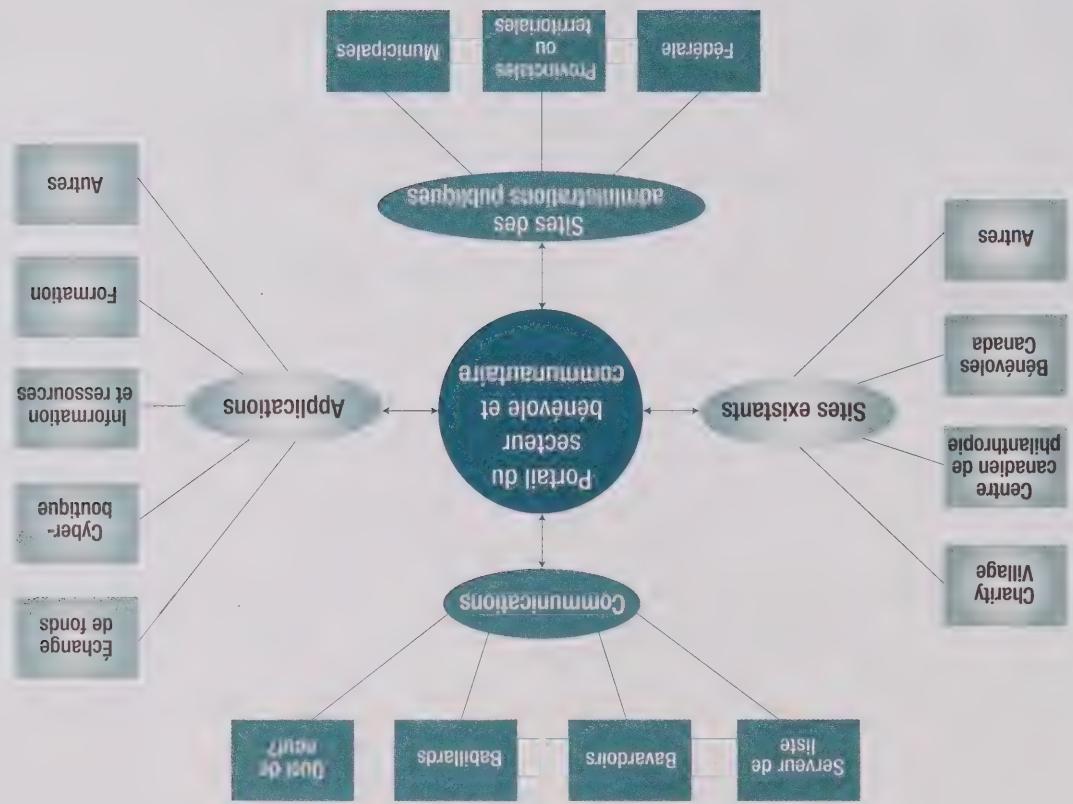
### Gay Birch (Member of Office)

#### Comité consultatif sur les appareils et

Marilvin Box (member of office)

Josephine Sutton (member d'office)

## Annexe III Modèle conceptuel



## Annexe II Définitions

**Technologie de l'information (TI) :** Tout type d'outil électronique facilitant la gestion, le stockage, la manipulation, la transmission ou la réception de données (p. ex. courriel, Internet, site Web, centres de ressources en ligne et groupes de discussion en ligne).

**Technologie des communications :** Moyen de transmission de l'information (p. ex. courriel, poste vocale, courriel, téléconference, télecopieur, poste téléphonique) ou avec l'extérieur (services postaux, téléphone).

**Outils technologiques :** Pour les besoins du présent rapport, non seulement le Web et les solutions trouvées couramment dans les organismes modernes, mais aussi toute la gamme fondées sur Internet, mais aussi toutes les solutions logicielles et du matériel de bureautique que l'on trouve couramment dans les organismes modernes.

**Gestion de l'information (GI) :** Au moyen de la technologie, mise en commun et communication de renseignements afin d'accroître la capacité d'un organisme à faire de la planification et de la gestion (notamment en ce qui concerne le personnel, les finances, le marketing et les systèmes).

**Capacité technologique :** Elaboration, acquisition et utilisation productive d'outils technologiques et du contenu connexe pour remplir une mission ou de gestion de l'information et des communications (de la mission de l'information et des communications ou mandat).

## Annexe I Résumé

1. Accroître les sommes dont les organismes bénévoles et communautaires disposent pour investir dans la technologie en établissant un dialogue avec les bailleurs de fonds du secteur, afin de les inciter à modifier leurs politiques et leurs méthodes de financement pour encourager les investissements dans la technologie.
2. Aider les organismes bénévoles et communautaires à utiliser la technologie avec plus d'efficacité en reliant les réseaux communautaires existants, en établissant un point d'accès central à ces réseaux et en offrant des rabais sur les technologies de l'information par l'intermédiaire d'une cybersoutien.
3. Établir un portail pour renforcer la capacité des organismes bénévoles et communautaires à communiquer et à faire partie de réseaux.
4. Accroître la rentabilité de la recherche et de l'octroi de subventions en mettant sur pied un service de financement interactif fondé sur le Web.
5. Mieux faire connaître aux organismes bénévoles et communautaires les avantages de la gestion de l'information et des technologies de la gestion pour l'accomplissement de leur mission.

## VII. Conclusion

Les cinq recommandations de la Table conjointe GI-TI reflètent une stratégie intégrée et cohérente visant à renforcer la capacité technologique du secteur bénévole et communautaire. En formulant ces recommandations, la Table conjointe a gardé à l'esprit les questions liées à la viabilité. Par conséquent, elle estime que la stratégie recommandée satisfait aux critères connexes. Ainsi, dans la mesure du possible, la stratégie s'appuiera sur les processus et les projets existants dans le secteur ou elle les améliorera.

La Table conjointe GI-TI estime par ailleurs que la stratégie contribuera grandement à la réalisation de son mandat, qui consiste à accroître la capacité des organismes bénévoles et communautaires à remplir leurs missions et leurs mandats respectifs. Elle recommande qu'industrie Canada s'assure que le

Les membres de la Table conjointe ont dit souhaiter maintenir leur participation pendant la phase de mise en œuvre en produisant des conseils au besoin afin d'assurer la continuité et d'aider à comprendre la raison d'être de la stratégie et la logique sur laquelle elle repose.

## VI. Results previous

En tant qu'équipe du ministère qui a parraîné la Table conjointe GI-TI, le Secrétariat de la GI-TI d'Industrie Canada supervisera la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la Table conjointe par les organismes qui se seront qualifiés par concours.

## V. Mise en œuvre

La campagne comprendrait :

- La diffusion de l'information dans tout le secteur bénévole et communautaire;
- La mise en commun des pratiques exemplaires;
- La mise en commun des cibles et les conseils d'administration et les gestionnaires du secteur bénévole et communautaire;
- La mise en commun des pratiques avec organismes qui utilisent la technologie aux organismes qui utilisent la technologie avec efficacité de servir de modèles pour d'autres organismes si les le souhaitent.

Mieux faire connaître aux organismes bénévoles et communautaires les avantages de la gestion de l'information et des technologies de l'information pour l'accomplissement de leur mission. Ce volet vise la mise sur pied d'une campagne ciblant les secteurs bénévoles et communautaires avec sensibiliser aux avantages de la G-TL et de fournir des informations sur les outils pouvant aider les organismes à adopter la technologie et à utiliser avec efficacité.

### Recomendation n° 3

Etablir un portail pour renforcer la capacite des organismes bnevoles et communautaires a communiquer et a faire partie de reseaux.

#### Recommandation n° 4

Directement ou par des liens avec des organismes bénévoles et communautaires, les administrations publiques, des fondations et des entreprises privées, ce portail fournit des services aux sites Web, tels que la cyberboutique et l'échange de fonds (voir ci-contre), dont aurait besoin les organismes bénévoles et communautaires. Le portail peut aussi être considéré comme une revue électronique inter- active qui facilite le recensement et la défense des intérêts, et qui, de façon générale, aide le secteur à jouer, avec les secteurs privés et publics, son rôle de pilier de la société canadienne. La conception du portail tiendrait compte de l'expérience vécue dans le cas des portails canadiens et étrangers destinés au secteur bénévole et communautaire.

des renseignements normaillés sur eux-mêmes et utiliseraient le service Web pour présenter des demandes de financement et des rapports. Les changements aux méthodes de financement énoncés dans la recommandation n° 1 contribuerait à l'efficacité du service.

Les principaux avantages sont bénéficié d'abord par les organismes gouvernementaux, les fondations et les entreprises privées bailleurs de fonds seraient semblaient à ceux dont profiteraient les bénévoles et communautaires (moins de ressources affectées aux formalités administratives, davantage de fonds à distribuer, meilleure utilisation des sources de financement et des organismes ou objets, marché ouvert, accroissement de l'efficience technique).

La aide de normes techniques communes, les bailleurs de fonds, qui s'agissent d'organismes gouvernementaux, de fondations ou d'entreprises privées, participeront au service en fournit assaut des procédures de demande et de production de rapports en lignes simplifiées et harmonisées. Pour leur part, les organismes bénévoles et communautaires fournit assaut des bénévoles et communautaires. Pour leur part, les organismes bénévoles et communautaires fournit assaut des bénévoles et communautaires. Pour leur part, les organismes bénévoles et communautaires fournit assaut des bénévoles et communautaires.

Un des principaux avantages qu'obtiendrait les organismes bénévoles et communautaires serait la réduction des ressources consacrées aux processus de demande et de production de rapports. Ainsi, un plus grand nombre d'organismes auraient des ressources à investir — et la volonté de le faire — dans la technologie dont ils ont besoin, non seule-ment pour recueillir des fonds, mais aussi pour accompagner d'autres aspects de leur mission. C'est un avantage qui renforcerait la capacité technologique de l'ensemble du secteur bénévole et communautaire.

Le Web connaît un service interactif sur lequel l'expression pour le secrétariat des bâillers de fonds. Ce service répondrait à une importante priorité des organismes bénévoles et communautaires en améliorant grandement leur rapport cout-éfficacité des démarches associées à la recherche de fonds, à la présentation de demandes de financement et à la production des rapports connexes. Il viserait à engendrer des avantages semblables pour les organismes partenaires qui financerait les entreprises gouvernementaux, les fondations et les entreprises aux bailleurs de fonds.

La aide de nomes techniques comununes, les baillerurs d'entreprises privées baillerurs de fonds seraient sem- blables à ceux dont profiteraient les fonds sem- blables à ceux dont profiteraient les organisme s bénévoles et communautaires (moins de ressources affectées aux formalités administratives, davantage de fonds à distribuer, meilleure jumelage des sources de financement et des organismes ou objectifs, marché ouvert, accroissement de l'efficience technique).

## Recommandation n°2

Les réseaux communautaires peuvent constituer l'un des meilleurs moyens de favoriser l'adoption et le soutien des technologies de l'information et des communautés, parce qu'ils fonctionnent selon des approches directes et pratiques à l'échelle locale. L'un des grands avantages qui en découlent tient au fait qu'ils permettent à un nombreux types d'organismes communs une infrastructure collective de mettre en commun une infrastructure collective, des connaissances et de l'expérience.

- en tournissant aux organismes bénévoles et communautaires un point d'accès central;
- en créant une « cyberbouquinerie » accessible par le portail et en offrant aux organismes bénévoles et communautaires des dispositions avantageuses pour l'acquisition de matériel, de logiciels, de services de formation, de maintenance, de soutien, etc.

- La mise en œuvre de ce volet de la stratégie se fera par l'intermédiaire des réseaux communautaires de GL-TI établis à la grandeur du Canada. Comme on l'a mentionné précédemment, ces réseaux dépendent dans une grande mesure de « l'infrastructure » que les administrations publiques, les organismes bénévoles et communautaires et le secteur privé mettent en place depuis un certain temps déjà.

Aider les organismes bénévoles et communau-taires à utiliser la technologie avec plus d'efficience et d'efficacité en reliant les réseaux communau-taires existants, en établissant un point d'accès central à ces réseaux et en offrant des rabais sur les technologies de l'information par l'intermédiaire d'une cyberboutique.

## IV. Recommandations — Adoption d'une stratégie en matière de technologie pour le secteur bénévole et communautaire

Accroître les sommes dont les organismes bénévoles et communautaires disposent pour investir dans la technologie en établissant un dialogue avec les bénévoles de fonds du secteur, afin de les inciter à modifier leurs politiques et leurs méthodes de financement pour englober les méthodes de financement des administrations publiques et des fondations qui empêchent ou compliquent l'accès des fonds aux organismes bénévoles et communautaires pour la technologie, notamment pour le matériel, les logiciels, le logiciel, les mises à niveau et la branche ment à l'intérieur, les mises à niveau et la formation, ou qui en sont estimées l'importance. Les discussions qui ont eu lieu avec des fondations et des organismes gouvernementaux finançant les organismes bénévoles et communautaires (balles de fonds) sont encourageantes. Un grand nombre d'entre eux recommandent qu'il est logique de financer les investissements dans la technologie et que cette dernière peut aider les organismes bénévoles et communautaires à remplir leurs missions respectives, dont les bailleurs de fonds souhaitent faciliter la réalisation.

## Recommandation n°1

Compte tenu des détails susmentionnés et des conclusions des rapports, enquêtes et évaluations dont il s'inspirent, la Table conjointe s'est penchée sur les interventions qui seraient les plus utiles à l'ensemble des organismes bénévoles et communautaires et, en particulier, à ceux qui ont le plus besoin d'aide.

L'intervention recommande pour relever les défis susmentionnés consiste en une stratégie composée de cinq volets complémentaires.

Le grand **défi** consistera à créer un portail pour communiquer à la société canadienne. Il permettra à ses membres d'organisées de faire partie d'un réseau de services dont ils ont besoin, et d'assurer la communication entre les secteurs à bénéfice et à caractère communautaire.

Le **grand défi** consistera à illustrer les avantages potentiels de la technologie qui peut aider le secteur bénévole et communautaire à jouer un rôle comme piliers de la société canadienne grâce à des communautaires qui peuvent aider le secteur à créer une stratégie de développement durable et à promouvoir leur mission, les organismes bénévoles et communautaires sont également confrontés à de nombreux défis.

Le **grand défi** consistera à simplifier et à informiser les organismes bénévoles et communautaires pour les aider à adopter la technologie qui peut aider à améliorer leur mission. Il faut également aider les organismes à développer leur mission de manière à faciliter la communication entre les secteurs à bénéfice et à caractère communautaire.

Le **grand défi** consistera à élaborer une stratégie qui favorise les bénévoles et les activités durables dans les plans et les activités des organismes bénévoles et communautaires. Il faut également aider les organismes à développer leur mission de manière à faciliter la communication entre les secteurs à bénéfice et à caractère communautaire.

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Le grand défi consistera à tailler en persuadant les bailleurs de fonds à l'acquisition de leur propre intérêt et à leur donner une aide pouvant aussi déboucher sur une technologie soit absorbable.

Les fonds qu'ils leur accordent. Ces fonds sont souvent des organismes bénévoles et communautaires (catéchisme, ministères et organismes d'affiliation) qui mentionnent des obstacles à l'acquisition de la technologie et certains fondations limitent la possibilité pour ces organisations d'affecter l'acquisition de la technologie.

Obstacles à l'acquisition de produits et services de G.I-TI

Le grand défi consistera à accroître les connaisseances en GL-TL des administrateurs, des cadres, du personnel et des bénévoles.

Les organisations qui se rapprochent des catégories 3 et 4 sont plus nombreux dans les secteurs privés et publics que dans les secteurs bénévoles et communautaires. Il en résulte que dans les secteurs bénévoles et communautaires, pour jouer son rôle de pilier de la société canadienne avec les secteurs privés et publics et être reconnus comme étant des partenaires de ces secteurs, le secteur bénévolé et communautaire devra se rapprocher des catégories 3 et 4.

La plupart des organismes bénévoles et communautaires du Canada sont brancées à interrêts et utilisent couramment le courriel. Certains possèdent leur propre site Web. Toutefois, peu d'autre eux ont intégré la GL-II à leurs activités au point de l'utiliser stratégiquement pour remplir leur mission. Comme on pouvait s'y attendre, les grands organismes bénévoles et communautaires se servent beaucoup plus de la technologie que nombre d'organismes de petite ou moyenne taille et ils en font une utilisation beaucoup plus complète plus que les petits.

## III. Défis

La plupart des enquêtes et évaluations relatives à la situation courante évouguées précédemment ont cerné des obstacles pouvant limiter le renforcement de la capacité technologique du secteur bénévole et communautaire. Voici les plus importants de ces obstacles.

Le grand **defi** consistera à favoriser dans tous les organismes bénévoles et communautaires, peu importe leur taille, l'endroit où ils sont établis ou d'autres particulières, l'établissement d'une capacité technologique convenant à leurs missions respectives. Il nécessitera la réduction de l'écart technologique entre les organismes bénévoles et les autres communautaires ainsi que le renforcement de la capacité du secteur à jouer son rôle en tant que **un des trois piliers de la société canadienne**.

Incliner une telle structure sur l'ensemble du secteur. Par exemple, les grandes différences entre, d'une part, les vastes organisations urbaines telles que les universités, les hopitaux, les organismes nationaux et les grandes fondations et, d'autre part, les dizaines de milliers de petits organismes bénévoles et communautaires, y compris ceux qui sont établis en milieu rural ou en région éloignée, rendissent grandement la capacité d'utiliser la technologie avec efficacité.

## Manague de connaissances en GL-TI des administrateurs, du personnel et des bénévoles

Les grands organismes ont généralement les ressources, le personnel technique et l'accès à l'infrastructure de communication nécessaire pour utiliser largement la G-II. Par contre, les petits organismes ne disposent habituellement que de magasins ressources et d'un accès très limité aux compétences techniques voulues. Les organismes établis en milieu rural ou en région éloignée ne disposent généralement d'aucune infrastructure de communication, comme les services Internet haut de gamme. Dans certains cas, ils n'ont même pas de service Internet de base. Ceci ne veut pas nécessairement dire que tous les grands organismes disposent de ressources adéquates pour utiliser la technologie avec efficacité et efficacité, ni que l'inverse est vrai dans le cas des petits organismes. Toutefois, lorsqu'il s'agit de rentabiliser l'utilisation de la technologie, les petits organismes sont généralement défavorisés.

pas nécessitant d'être tous les grands organismes disposant de ressources débordantes ou utilisant la technologie avec efficience et efficacité, ni que l'inverse est vrai dans le cas des petits organismes. Toutefois, lorsqu'il s'agit de rentabiliser l'utilisation de la technologie, les petits organismes sont généralement défavorisés.

L'une des forces des réseaux initiatives communautaires tient au fait qu'ils favorisent le type de rapports personnels durables, avec des personnes bien informées et soucieuses des questions locales d'ordre pratique, qui privilient la plupart des organisations bénévoles et communautaires.

Au Canada, on trouve de nombreux réseaux locaux, y compris les organisations bénévoles et communautaires, pour utiliser la technologie avec efficience et efficacité. Ces réseaux compétent souvent sur le financement, les installations et les programmes de diverses sources gouvernementales et non gouvernementales pour établir services de formation et de soutien technique dont ont besoin les organismes bénévoles et publics locaux pour remplir leur mission.



## II. Méthode

## Détermination des principes directeurs pour la formulation des recommandations

- Travailleur de concert avec d'autres secteurs (p. 1) le secteur privé); partager la responsabilité.
- Reconnaît que les partenaires peuvent appporter une importante contribution à la formulation et à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie, qu'il faut miser sur les structures les meilleures et les plus stables.
- Ne pas créer de solutions qui présentent un risque pour les organismes. Toutes les solutions pour les organismes et les avantages pour les entreprises doivent respecter l'équilibre entre les risques et les avantages pour les organisations.
- Reconnaît qu'il faut éviter les solutions telles que «je veux lui faire une offre qu'il ne pourra pas refuser», qui sont susceptibles d'amener les organismes à prendre de trop grands risques de nature financière ou autre.
- Reconnaît qu'il faut évaluer les solutions telles que l'organisme et la gestion avant la technologie.
- Reconnaît que la technologie doit servir, et non pas déterminer, les besoins des organismes.
- Reconnaît que la technologie doit servir, et non pas déterminer, les besoins des communautés.

La Table conjugiole GL-II a attaché une grande importance à l'établissement des principes et des processus destinés à orienter son travail. Les éléments enumérés ci-dessous constituent les principes directeurs qu'elle a adoptés pour formuler des recommandations visant à répondre aux besoins prioritaires des organisations bénévoles et communautaires et de l'ensemble du secteur. Ces principes directeurs, assortis d'un bref commentaire (en italique), sont :

La stratégie devrait être mise en œuvre avant la fin de l'ISBC, prévue pour le printemps 2005. Conçue comme stratégie durable pouvant résoudre les difficultés concrètes et immédiates des organismes bénévoles et communautaires ainsi que les prochaines échéances à plus long terme de l'ensemble du secteur, cette stratégie complète des avantages qui dévraient devenir de plus en plus évidents pendant la période de mise en œuvre et par la suite.

La Table conjointe GI-TI est l'une des six tables conjointes établies dans le cadre de l'ISBC. Elle a pour mandat d'élaborer et de réaliser des initiatives ayant pour but de renforcer les organismes bénévoles et communautaires en leur permettant d'accueillir les compétences techniques dont ils ont besoin pour réaliser leurs missions et leurs mandats respectifs. On trouvera l'annonce complète du mandat et des principes directeurs de la Table conjointe ainsi qu'une description de son programme dans le site Web de l'ISBC (<http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/fr/joint-tables/in-terms-of-reference.cfm>).

## 1. Introduction

- recueillir et verser des fonds;
- recruter des bénévoles et les soutenir;
- gérer les activités du personnel et des administrateurs;
- fournir des services;
- promouvoir l'amélioration de lois ainsi que de politiques et programmes gouvernementaux;
- se tenir au courant des faits nouveaux;
- communiquer avec leurs diverses compositions et d'autres intervenants;
- faire partie de réseaux avec d'autres organismes.

Le présent rapport recommande l'adoption d'une stratégie pour aider les organismes bénévoles et communautaires à le seconder dans son ensemble à renforcer leur capacité d'utiliser la G-I-T avec efficacité pour réaliser leur mission. De façon plus précise, la stratégie a pour objet d'aider les organismes bénévoles et communautaires à utiliser la technologie afin de trouver des stratégies pour améliorer leur rentabilité de manière à utiliser les ressources essentielles d'un exemple : par exemple :

Selon le consensus qui se dégage des rapports dans le domaine et des commentaires des observateurs bien informés, le secteur bénévole et communautaire bien informé, C'est d'ailleurs un motif de préoccupation. Les organismes bénévoles et communautaires nous font participer à la vie de nos collectivités, nous rassemblent, fourmillent de nombreux services et expriment des préoccupations communes. Ils sont essentiellement à notre bien-être collectif. Or, une utilisation plus efficace de la technologie pourrait rendre plus précieuse encore la contribution des organismes bénévoles et communautaires et de l'ensemble du secteur à l'échelle 2000, consiste à renforcer la capacité du secteur bénévole et communautaire. L'ISBC reconnaît que la GI-TT constitue, avec les ressources humaines et financières, les compétences, le savoir et l'expérience qui un des principaux facteurs de renforcement de cette « capacité ».

La gestion de l'information et les technologies de l'information (GILTI) transforme les organisations des secteurs privés et publics ainsi que du secteur bénévole et communautaire, en particulier depuis une dizaine d'années. Dans le cas de nombreux organismes, la technologie a entraîné de profonds changements qui ont transformé leurs activités, leurs communications et leurs structures, voire leur mission. Bien que la transformation puisse s'avérer difficile, la plupart des organismes jugeut la technologie à la réalisation de leur mission.

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Rapport de la Table Conjointe sur la gestion de  
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l'initiative sur le secteur bénévole et communautaire

Septembre 2002



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